

**Sustainable Natural Resource Funding
Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Des Moines Botanical Center – Des Moines, IA
January 3, 1007**

Committee members present:

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| Mark | Ackelson | | Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation |
| Dan | Cohen | | IACCB |
| Dick | Dearden | | IA Senate-Democrat |
| Barbara | Finch | | Iowa Farm Bureau |
| Rich | Leopold | | Iowa Environmental Council |
| Lola | Lopes | | The Nature Conservancy |
| Pauline | Novotny | | Izaak Walton League of Iowa |
| Marvin | Shirley | | Farmers Union |
| Ken | Tow | | Secretary of Agriculture |
| Dave | Van Waus | | Pheasants Forever |
| Jane | Clark | | Sierra Club |
| Jeff | Vonk | Ken Herring | IA DNR - facilitator |
| Henry | Rayhons | | Iowa House of Representatives-Republican |
| John | Whitaker | | IA House of Representatives-Democrat |
| Owen | Shunkwiler | | Iowa Renewable Fuels Association |
| Deb | Ryun | | Conservation Districts of Iowa |
| Tammi | Kircher | | Ducks Unlimited |

Committee member(s) absent:

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|------|--------|--|---|
| Mary | Lundby | | Legislative Staff: IA Senate-Republican |
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Committee Support Staff

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|-------|---------------|---|
| Diane | Ford-Shivvers | IA DNR Legislative Liaison / SF Support |
| Doug | Harr | IA DNR Program Coordinator/SF Facilitator |
| Kim | Rasler | IA DNR / SF Support |
| Peter | Fritzell | IA DNR / SF Support |
| Jim | Zohrer | contract support through DNR |
| Ken | Herring | IA DNR / SF Facilitator |

Public present:

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|--------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Matt | Hare | The Nature Conservancy |
| Deb | Kozel | LSA |
| Angela | Grover | TNC |
| Mary | Braun | House Democratic Staff |
| Rick | Tebbs | IA Conservation Alliance |
| Terry | Durby | IA State Snowmobile Association |
| Mervyn | Hoermann | IA State Snowmobile Association |
| Dan | Kleen | OHV |
| Duane | Sand | INHF |
| Mary | Neubauer | IA Lottery |
| Ryan | Heiniger | DU |

Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks – Ken Herring
Summary of 11/01/06 meeting and review 12/11/06 agenda - Doug Harr

Public present were acknowledged and congratulations was given to Rich Leopold for his appointment as Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Due to this new appointment, which puts Rich in the position of facilitating the committee, the committee discussed and appointed Mark Ackelson as lead person regarding legislative presentations.

Doug Harr summarized the 12/11/06 meeting and reviewed the 01/03/07 agenda.

Presentation: Parks 2020 – Kevin Szcodronski and Gerry Schneff

The mission of Parks 2020 is to build a constituency similar to PF, DU, and other specified groups that have an interest in supporting Iowa's state parks, with the intention to look at parks through a long term perspective and find a way to support state parks for their 100th year anniversary (in the year 2020) and work to have our state parks in premiere condition by then. Even though, at first blush, the facilities look presentable, they need attention. Minnesota calls this the silent crisis. You do not build a park system overnight and you do not degrade a park system overnight. Iowa's parks cannot continue as they have been so this group is being formed to focus on the needs of our state parks across Iowa.

Preliminary Report Update - Jim Zohrer

Jim Zohrer is working to create 3 reports: 1) a full report which includes everything and is approximately 117 pages. 2) a short report which is summarized down to 17 pages. This report will most likely be the report with the greatest distribution. 3) a 2-3 page summary on what the committee has done and what was sent to the legislature. (Deb Kozel will work with Jim on this.) Senator Dearden suggested this document be brief and user-friendly so legislators can use it at town meetings.

The committee requested the report(s) be posted on the Sustainable Funding website. They also agreed that the short report would be what is submitted to the Governor and legislators by 01/10/07. Language was discussed to clarify funding mechanisms as well as the concept of protecting the funds. The committee voted to continue with recommending the five funding mechanisms they chose to poll the public on, with the idea that other funding mechanisms listed separately may be explored further. The committee was in agreement to recommend the funds be protected. Format of the report should include a separate section regarding funding recommendations and a section for public awareness recommendations.

Due to the DNR providing support for the SF committee, it would need to be reauthorized by the legislature if that specific support would be considered after 01/10/07. The committee agreed to ask for continued support along with the 03/01/07 date to provide the Governor and General Assembly with a final report.

Public Input

The committee asked the public present to introduce themselves and, due to time available, offered to hear input from the public. General questions were fielded and the following gave brief comments.

Terry Derby, with the IA Snowmobiling Association presented the situation they have experienced in being a self funded group.

Dan Kleen commented on the types of group that were chosen to represent on this advisory committee and shared that his motorized organizations would like to offer their assistance in supporting the sustainable funding effort.

Mary Neubauer with the IA lottery presented a brief history of the lottery's original intent. In 1985, the lottery profits were to help small business projects, not schools. In 1991, money was dedicated to environmental issues and after one year the legislature had problems balancing the budget and the lottery money was put into the general fund. Mary expressed their interest in providing funds for the environment and stated they are supportive of some of the lottery profits

going toward natural resources. Currently, \$50-\$55M is going to the general fund. Mary recommended that any money selected for the environment be protected. Angela Grover expressed her thoughts that this is an all star team and she has not seen this in other states. She believes the momentum is great and when there is a coalition like this, they will be able to have the ability to go to the right person at the right time. This committee is an example she has been sharing around the country.

Legislative Planning – Full Committee

Methods of promoting the report were discussed, ie: press releases, press conference. They also discussed how to proceed in informing the legislators about the content that will be in the Sustainable Funding report submitted 01/10/07. Diane Ford-Shivvers would inform the committee when the legislature's calendar was posted and when presentations on Sustainable Funding could/would occur and any/all committee members would attend when possible to support the presenter.

Funds to reimburse the DNR for costs incurred, such as the willingness to pay survey was discussed. It was noted there may be an opportunity to request funds from the legislature. Committee members whose organizations are able offered to provide some financial support to apply toward the costs.

The committee discussed continuing as a separate entity to support the sustainable funding effort. The continuation of this group was met with favorable discussion and they will coordinate a date to determine how they want to proceed.

Next meeting date

February 8, 2007, 9a-12p (*Due to scheduling/facility availability, has been changed to Friday 02/09/07*)
Barb Finch offered to schedule a location for the next meeting at Farm Bureau.